

27 OCT 2001

Laos-Visit

LAOTIAN PM TO MAKE THREE-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA FROM MONDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith of the Lao People's Republic arrives here on Monday for a three-day visit to Malaysia.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Khammeung Voracith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Somsavat Lengsavad and senior officials from various Laotian government agencies.

Wisma Putra, in a statement today, said a 10-member trade delegation will accompany the Laotian Prime Minister to explore trade and business opportunities in Malaysia.

Bounnhang and wife are scheduled to have an audience with the Acting Yang di-Pertuan Agong during the visit.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the two leaders are expected to discuss and exchange views on ways to enhance bilateral relations as well as the political-economic development in the region, the statement said.

The Laotian Prime Minister and his delegation are scheduled to visit the Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, the Petronas Twin Towers and Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton).

"The visit is seen in the context of further enhancing the bilateral and economic cooperation between the two countries," said the statement.

Until May 2001, total trade registered between the two countries stood at RM2.5 million with exports from Malaysia to Laos amounting to RM1.96 million and imports valued at RM0.5 million.

Malaysia is currently the fourth largest investor in the country with a total value investment amounting to RM1.05 billion.

A meeting between the travelling businessmen with the Malaysian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also been arranged to discuss the potential areas of trade and investment by Malaysian investors and businessmen in Laos.

-- BERNAMA

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